

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. An electronic test system comprising:

an electronic memory storing steps for performing an electronic test on an

5 electronic device under test (DUT) that is separate and distinct from said test system;

an electronic processor communicating with said memory for controlling the execution of said electronic test;

a control interface communicating with said electronic processor, said control interface comprising at least four buttons grouped adjacent to one another; and

10 a graphical element associated with each of said buttons, each said graphical element conveying a command for controlling said test.

2. An electronic test system as in claim 1 wherein said commands comprise abort said test, restart said test, run said test, and pause said test.

3. An electronic test system comprising:

an electronic memory for storing an electronic test to be performed on an electronic device under test (DUT) that is separate and distinct from said test system, said electronic memory also storing steps for controlling said electronic test;

an electronic processor communicating with said memory for performing and controlling the execution of said electronic test;

20 a display communicating with said electronic processor to display information, said information including a control interface comprising a plurality of icons;

a graphical element associated with each of said icons, each said graphical element conveying a command for performing one of said steps for controlling said test; and

25 an input device for interacting with said control interface and said processor to enable a user to control said test.

4. An electronic test system as in claim 3 wherein each of said graphical elements includes a label corresponding to the function of one of said commands.

5. An electronic test system as in claim 3 wherein said control interface is 30 comprised of icons grouped in the manner of a tape recorder.

6. An electronic test system as in claim 3 wherein said commands

comprise four or more commands selected from the group "abort", "run", "pause", "repeat test", "repeat measurement", "skip test", and "skip measurement".

7. An electronic test system comprising:

an electronic memory for storing an electronic test to be performed on an

5 electronic device under test (DUT) that is separate and distinct from said test system,
said electronic memory also storing steps for controlling said electronic test;

an electronic processor communicating with said memory for performing and
controlling the execution of said electronic test;

a display communicating with said electronic processor to display information,

10 said information including a control interface comprising a plurality of tape recorder
type control buttons; and

an input device for interacting with said control interface and said electronic
processor to enable a user to control said test.

15 8. An electronic test system as in claim 7 wherein said test stored in said
memory has a hierarchical structure including a plurality of levels and at least two of
said buttons control the progress of said test at different ones of said levels.

9. An electronic test system as in claim 7 wherein said levels are test and
measurement.

10. An electronic test system comprising:

an electronic memory for storing an electronic test to be performed on an
electronic device under test (DUT) that is separate and distinct from said test system,
said electronic memory also storing steps for controlling said electronic test;

an electronic processor communicating with said memory for performing and
controlling the execution of said electronic test;

25 a display communicating with said electronic processor to display information,
said information including a control interface comprising at least four tape recorder
type control buttons, each said control button corresponding to one of said steps;

30 said steps including at least four steps to enable each said button to perform
a different one of four functions selected from the following functions: run said test,
pause said test, stop said test, skip said test, and restart said test; and

an input device for interacting with said control interface and said processor to

enable a user to control said test.

11. An electronic test system as in claim 10 wherein there are five of said buttons and five of said steps.

12. An electronic test system as in claim 10 wherein said electronic test includes a plurality of hierarchical levels including a test level corresponding to a test to be performed and a measurement sub-level of said test level corresponding to a measurement to be performed during test, said control interface further comprises a measurement button for controlling the progress of said measurement, and said steps include a step to enable said button to perform a function controlling said measurement.

13. An electronic test system as in claim 12 wherein there are two of said measurement buttons and said steps include steps to enable said buttons to perform the functions of skip said measurement and restart said measurement.

14. A method for controlling the execution of an electronic test comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic test system for performing an electronic test;

utilizing said electronic test system to perform an electronic test on an electronic device under test (DUT) that is separate and distinct from said test system;

displaying on said test system information including a control interface comprising at least four control buttons grouped adjacent to one another; and

interacting with said control interface using an input device to control the execution of said test.

15. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of displaying further comprises associating a symbol with each of said buttons to convey the function of each said button.

16. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging an "abort" button to stop the execution of said test.

17. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "restart test" button to restart the execution of said test.

18. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "restart measurement" button to restart the execution of a measurement of said test.

5 19. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "pause" button to momentarily halt the execution of said test.

20. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "skip test" button to skip said test.

10 21. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "skip measurement" button to skip a measurement in said test.

22. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "repeat test" button to repeat said test.

15 23. A method for controlling the execution of a test procedure as in claim 14 wherein said step of interacting comprises engaging a "repeat measurement" button to repeat a measurement within said test.